ABSTRACT

A shell navigation tool for a personal computer having a multiple page shell user interface and a shell component. The shell user interface utilizes navigation between multiple layers of pages to organize and display links to local and remote documents, programs, web links, tasks, services, devices, and the like. A shell component registers the documents, programs, web links, tasks, services, and devices with particular pages in the hierarchy so as to logically combine the items. At the top level of the multiple-page shell user interface, a start page provides access via hyperlinks to lower order pages, as well as links to system settings, and a limited number of local and remote documents, web links, and programs. The start page is designed to be presented to a user at the beginning of the user's session on the computer, and provides a broad view of what is available on the computer and at a variety of websites. The user may return to the start page at any point in the session to continue to access additional information and/or links. Lower pages in the hierarchy, called "Activity Centers," may be scoped to define activity types or groupings (e.g., games, web, photography, personal finance). An Activity Center page

provides links to local and remote programs, documents, and

web links, that are related to the defined activity.